

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 IO-10 /070 W

----- 114679

R 091520Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9526

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5144

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO PAPANDREOU INCREASES WITHIN
PASOK

REF: ATHENS 4420

1. IN WAKE OF DISSOLUTION OF PASOK'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE (REFTTEL), PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU DECLARED HE WOULD GO TO THE "GRASS ROOTS" TO RESOLVE THE INTERNAL LEADERSHIP CRISIS AND REVITALIZE THE MOVEMENT. THE CRISIS FURTHER HEIGHTENED ON JULY 1 WHEN THE FULL LIST OF 48 PERSONS EXPELLED FROM PASOK BY PAPANDREOU WAS PUBLISHED. (THE LIST INCLUDED SUCH PERSONS AS LADY FLEMING AND ACTRESS MELINA MECOURI.) THE JUSTIFICATION FOR MANY OF THE EXPULSIONS WAS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED HAD VOICED HIS OR HER CRITICISMS IN PUBLIC.

2. THE FIRST STOP ON PAPANDREOU'S GRASS ROOTS TOUR WAS LARISSA WHERE HE SPOKE ON JULY 5 AND 6. WHILE PAPANDREOU HAD INDICATED THAT THE CHIEF PURPOSE FOR HIS TRIP TO THE PROVINCES WAS "ORGANIZATIONAL", NEVERTHELESS HIS LARISSA SPEECHES WERE HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICALLY. THE FIRST SPEECH WAS AN ACROSS THE BOARD ATTACK ON THE
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CARAMANLIS GOVT CRITICIZING ITS ECONOMIC,

FINANCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. PAPANDREOU REITERATED HIS CRITICISMS AGAINST THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND HIS EARLIER CALL FOR A STRUGGLE FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY TO REWRITE IT. HE BLASTED THE GOVT FOR ITS FAILURE TO PUSH DEJUNTIZATION FURTHER AND ENDED UP WITH A BLAST AGAINST GREEK FOREIGN POLICY.

3. PAPANDREOU'S SECOND SPEECH WAS AN ATTACK ON ALL THE OTHER GREEK POLITICAL PARTIES. HIS PROBABLE AIM WAS TO TRY AND PORTRAY HIS PASOK MOVEMENT AS UNIQUE OR "DIFFERENT", THUS REPRESENTING A CLEAR ALTERNATIVE TO THE NATION'S VOTERS. IN THE COURSE OF HIS ATTACKS, HE LEVIED A SPECIAL BLAST AT THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (KKE) OF THE INTERIOR, WHICH HE CHARGED IS REALLY INTERESTED ONLY IN "A CERTIFICATION THAT IT IS A DECENT LEFTIST PARTY".

4. PAPANDREOU THEN TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE EXTERNAL BRANCH OF KKE, WHICH HE DECLARED HAS NO MISSION SINCE IT ACCEPTS THE THESIS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE US HAVE AGREED THAT GREECE BELONGS TO THE WEST. FINALLY PAPANDREOU REMARKED THAT HE PERCEIVES LITTLE OR NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CENTER UNION NEW FORCES (CU/NF) AND THE NEW DEMOCRACY (ND) PARTIES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE ASSERTED THAT THE CU/NF POSSESSES NO IDEOLOGY OR POLITICAL BELIEF AND THAT TOGETHER WITH THE ND IT CONSTITUTES THE TOOLS BY WHICH FOREIGNERS RUN THE COUNTRY.

5. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION TO DATE FROM EITHER CU/NF OR ND SOURCES TO THE PAPANDREOU BLAST, THE KKE-INTERIOR HAS ISSUED REBUTTALS BOTH FROM ITS PRESS OFFICE AND FROM ITS PARTY HEADQUARTERS. IN ESSENCE, THE REBUTTALS STATE THAT PAPANDREOU OPPOSES UNITY BOTH OF THE LEFTIST AND OF THE ANTI-DICTATORIAL/ DEMOCRATIC FORCES. IT FURTHER ASSERTED THAT PAPANDREOU, IN AN ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME HIS OWN INTERNAL PASOK CRISIS, HAS LAUNCHED DIVERSIONARY ATTACKS AGAINST ALL OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS.

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6. PAPANDREOU WAS ALSO ATTACKED FROM WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY ON JUL 7 WHEN MORE THAN 1,000 PASOK ADHERENTS GATHERED IN ATHENS AT A MEETING CALLED BY A GROUP OF THOSE EXPELLED FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO OPENLY EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO THIS CONDUCT OF PARTY AFFAIRS. A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED STATING THAT THE PASOK CRISIS WAS NOT AT THE SUMMIT OF THE PARTY

BUT RATHER ENCOMPASSES THE ENTIRE PASOK MOVEMENT.
THE CAUSE OF THE CRISIS WAS PAPANDREOU'S ATTEMPT TO
TRANSFORM A MOVEMENT OF SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES
INTO AN "INDIVIDUALLY LED" POLITICAL PARTY. THE
STATEMENT WENT ON TO DENOUNCE PAPANDREOU'S DISSOLUTION
OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, "ADMINISTRATIVE TERROR",
AND THE "MUD SLINGING" TACTICS USED AGAINST HIS
OPPONENTS. IT CONCLUDED BY INVITING ALL THOSE
PREPARED TO CONDUCT THE STRUGGLE FOR A SUCCESSFUL
SOCIALIST MOVEMENT TO DENOUNCE PAPANDREOU'S
LEADERSHIP.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY EXPULSIONS, PARTY DISSENSION, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS05144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750237-0914
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750771/aaaaclau.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 4420
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION TO PAPANDREOU INCREASES WITHIN PASOK
TAGS: PINT, GR, PASOK, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006